NUMB LXVII.

The SPECTATOR.

Saltare elegantiùs quam neceſſe eſt probæ. Sal.

Thurſday, May 17. 1711.

LUCIAN, in one of his Dialogues, introduces a Philoſopher chiding his Friend for his being a Lover of Dancing, and a Frequenter of Balls. The other undertakes the Defence of his Favourite Diverſion, which, he ſays, was at firſt invented by the Goddeſs *Rhea*, and preſerved the Life of *Jupiter* himſelf, from the Cruelty of his Father *Saturn*. He proceeds to ſhew, that it had been Approved by the greateſt Men in all Ages; that *Homer* calls *Merion* a *fine Dancer*; and ſays, That the graceful Mein and great Agility which he had acquired by that Exerciſe, diſtinguiſhed him above the reſt in the Armies, both of *Greeks* and *Trojans*.

He adds, that *Pyrrhus* gained more Reputation by inventing the Dance which is called after his Name, than by all his other Actions: That the *Lacedæmonians*, who were the braveſt People in *Greece*, gave great Encouragement to this Diverſion, and made their *Hormus* (a Dance much reſembling the *French Brawl*) famous over all *Aſia*: That there were ſtill extant ſome *Theſſalian* Statues erected to the Honour of their beſt Dancers: And that he wondred how his Brother Philoſopher could declare himſelf againſt the Opinions of thoſe two Perſons, whom he profeſſed ſo much to Admire, *Homer* and *Heſiod*; the latter of which compares Valour and Dancing together; and ſays, That *the Gods have beſtowed Fortitude on ſome Men, and on others a Diſpoſition for Dancing*.

Laſtly, He puts him in mind that *Socrates* (who, in the Judgment of *Apollo*, was the Wiſeſt of Men) was not only a profeſſed Admirer of this Exerciſe in others, but learned it himſelf when he was an Old Man.

The Moroſe Philoſopher is ſo much affected by theſe, and ſome other Authorities, that he becomes a Convert to his Friend, and deſires he would take him with him when he went to his next Ball.

I love to ſhelter my ſelf under the Examples of Great Men; and, I think, I have ſufficiently ſhewed that it is not below the Dignity of theſe my Speculations, to take Notice of the following Letter, which, I ſuppoſe, is ſent me by ſome ſubſtantial Tradeſman about *Change*.

SIR,

'I Am a Man in Years, and by an honeſt Induſtry 'in the World have acquired enough to give 'my Children a liberal Education, though I was an 'utter Stranger to it my ſelf. My eldeſt Daughter, 'a Girl of Sixteen, has for ſome time been under the 'Tuition of Monſieur *Rigadoon*, a Dancing-Maſter in 'the City; and I was prevailed upon by her and her 'Mother to go laſt Night to one of his Balls. I muſt 'own to you, Sir, that having never been at any 'ſuch Place before, I was very much pleaſed and 'ſurprized with that part of his Entertainment which 'he called *French Dancing*. There were ſeveral 'Young Men and Women, whoſe Limbs ſeemed 'to have no other Motion, but purely what the 'Muſick gave them. After this Part was over, they 'began a Diverſion which they call *Country Dancing*, and wherein there were alſo ſome things 'not diſagreeable, and divers *Emblematical Figures*, 'Compoſed, as I gueſs, by Wiſe Men, for the Inſtruction of Youth.

'Among the reſt I obſerved one, which, I think, 'they call *Hunt the Squirrel*, in which while the 'Woman flies the Man purſues her; but as ſoon as 'ſhe turns, he runs away, and ſhe is obliged to follow.

'The Moral of this Dance does, I think, very 'aptly recommend Modeſty and Diſcretion to the 'Female Sex.

'But as the beſt Inſtitutions are liable to Corruptions, ſo, Sir, I muſt acquaint you that very 'great Abuſes are crept into this Entertainment. I 'was amazed to ſee my Girl handed by, and handing young Fellows with ſo much Familiarity; and 'I could not have thought it had been in the Child. 'They very often made uſe of a moſt impudent and 'laſcivious Step called *Setting*, which I know not 'how to deſcribe to you, but by telling you that 'tis the very reverſe of *Back to Back*. At laſt an 'impudent young Dog bid the Fidlers play a Dance 'called *Mol. Pately*, and after having made two or 'three Capers, ran to his Partner, locked his Arms 'in hers, and whisked her round cleverly above 'Ground in ſuch manner, that I, who ſat upon 'one of the loweſt Benches, ſaw further above her 'Shoe than I think fit to acquaint you with. I 'could no longer endure theſe Enormities, wherefore juſt as my Girl was going to be made a 'Whirligig, I ran in, ſeized on the Child, and carried her home.

'Sir, I am not yet old enough to be a Fool. I 'ſuppoſe this Diverſion might be at firſt invented 'to keep up a good Underſtanding between young 'Men and Women, and ſo far I am not againſt it; 'but I ſhall never allow of theſe things. I know 'not what you will ſay to this Caſe at preſent, 'but am ſure that had you been with me you would 'have ſeen matter of great Speculation.

I am

Yours, &c.

I muſt confeſs I am afraid that my Correſpondent had too much Reaſon to be a little out of Humour at the Treatment of his Daughter, but I conclude that he would have been much more ſo,

ſo, had he ſeen one of thoſe *kiſſing Dances* in which WILL. HONEYCOMBE aſſures me they are obliged to dwell almoſt a Minute on the Fair One's Lips, or they will be too quick for the Muſick, and dance quite out of Time.

I am not able however to give my final Sentence againſt this Diverſion; and am of Mr. *Cowley*'s Opinion, that ſo much of Dancing at leaſt as belongs to the Behaviour and an handſom Carriage of the Body, is extreamly uſeful, if not abſolutely neceſſary.

We generally form ſuch Ideas of People at firſt Sight, as we are hardly ever perſuaded to lay aſide afterwards: For this Reaſon a Man would wiſh to have nothing diſagreeable or uncomely in his Approaches, and to be able to enter a Room with a good Grace.

I might add, that a moderate Knowledge in the little Rules of Good-breeding gives a Man ſome Aſſurance, and makes him eaſie in all Companies. For Want of this, I have ſeen a Profeſſor of a Liberal Science at a Loſs to Salute a Lady; and a moſt excellent Mathematician not able to determine whether he ſhould ſtand or ſit while my Lord drank to him.

It is the proper Buſineſs of a Dancing Maſter to regulate theſe matters; tho' I take it to be a juſt Obſervation, that unleſs you add ſomething of your own to what theſe fine Gentlemen teach you, and which they are wholly ignorant of themſelves, you will much ſooner get the Character of an Affected Fop, than of a Well-bred Man.

As for *Country Dancing*, it muſt indeed be confeſſed, that the great Familiarities between the two Sexes on this Occaſion may ſometimes produce very dangerous Conſequences; and I have often thought that few Ladies Hearts are ſo obdurate as not to be melted by the Charms of Muſick, the Force of Motion, and an handſom young Fellow who is continually playing before their Eyes, and convincing them that he has the perfect Uſe of all his Limbs.

But as this kind of Dance is the particular Invention of our own Country, and as every one is more or leſs a Proficient in it, I would not Diſcountenance it; but rather ſuppoſe it may be practiſed innocently by others, as well as my ſelf, who am often Partner to my Landlady's Eldeſt Daughter.

POSTSCRIPT.

Having heard a good Character of the Collection of Pictures which is to be Expoſed to Sale on *Friday* next; and concluding from the following Letter, that the Perſon who Collected them is a Man of no unelegant Taſte, I will be ſo much his Friend as to Publiſh it, provided the Reader will only look upon it as filling up the Place of an Advertiſement.

From the Three Chairs in the Piazza Covent-Garden.

SIR, *May* 16, 1711.

'AS you are SPECTATOR, I think we, who 'make it our Buſineſs to exhibit any thing to 'publick View, ought to apply our ſelves to you 'for your Approbation. I have travelled *Europe* to 'furniſh out a Show for you, and have brought 'with me what has been admired in every Country through which I paſſed. You have declared in many Papers, that your greateſt Delights 'are thoſe of the Eye, which I do not doubt but 'I ſhall Gratifie with as Beautiful Objects as yours 'ever beheld. If Caſtles, Foreſts, Ruins, Fine 'Women, and Graceful Men, can pleaſe you, I 'dare promiſe you much Satisfaction, if you will 'appear at my Auction on *Friday* next. A Sight is, I 'ſuppoſe, as Grateful to a SPECTATOR as a 'Treat to another Perſon, and therefore I hope you 'will Pardon this Invitation from,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedient

Humble Servant,

J. GRAHAM.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality.

For the Benefit of Mr. Bickerſtaff.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-lane, this preſent Thurſday, the 17th of May, will be preſented a Comedy called, The Scornful Lady: Written by Beaumont and Fletcher. The part of the Scornful Lady to be perform'd by Mrs. Oldfield, Lovelaſs by Mr. Wilks, Younglaſs by Mr. Mills, Welford by Mr. Bickerſtaff, Morecraft by Mr. Bullock, Roger by Mr. Cibber, Poet by Mr. Norris, Martha by Mrs. Bicknell, Abigail by Mrs. Willis, Savil by Mr. Dogget. To which will be added a Farce, called, A Bickerſtaff's Burying, or, Work for the Upholders.

This Play is ſold by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

A curious Collection of Italian Paintings (by Giacomo and Leandro Baſſan, Schiavone, Tintoret, Spagnolet, Nicola and Gaſpar Pouſſin, Claude Lorain, Salvator Roſa, Fran. Bologna, Mola, the Borgognon, Luca Jordano, Bourdon, and the Maloon; as alſo by Rubens and Vandyck, the Velvet Brueghel, Holben, Brouwer, Berchem, Schalken, Teniers, &c.) lately brought from beyond Sea, will be Sold by Auction on Friday the 18th Inſtant, at the three Chairs, the corner Houſe of the Little Piazza, Covent Garden, where Catalogues may be had, and the Pictures view'd 'till the time of Sale.

This Day is publiſh'd,

An ESSAY on CRITICISM. Printed for W. Lewis in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; and Sold by W. Taylor, at the Ship in Pater Noſter Row; T. Osborn, in Grays-Inn near the Walks; J. Graves, in St. James's-ſtreet; and J. Morphew, near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s.

To be Sold, at a lower Rate than ordinary, at the Queen's Head, joining to the Church Gate in Bedford-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, all Sorts of Druggets, Hair and Worſted Camlets, Sagathies, Duroys, Shagreens, Shalloons, Durants, Padua Serges, Shags, Serges de Nifmes, Calamancoes, and all other Goods fit for Mens Apparel. The Perſons who now keep the Shop deſigning to leave off the Trade, and the Houſe and Shop to be Lett at Michaelmas next.

Mr. Penkethman's Wonderful Invention, called the Pantheon: Or, the Temple of the Heathen-gods. The Work of ſeveral Years, and great Expence, is now perfected; being a moſt ſurprizing and Magnificent Machine, conſiſting of 5 ſeveral curious Pictures; the Painting and Contrivance whereof is beyond Expreſſion Admirable. The Figures, which are above 100, and move their Heads, Legs, Arms, and Fingers, ſo exactly to what they perform, and ſeeing one Form before another, like living Creatures, that it juſtly deſerves to be eſteem'd the greateſt Wonder of the Age. To be ſeen from 10 in the Morning till 10 at Night, in the Little Piazza's Covent-Garden, in the ſame Houſe where Punch's Opera is. Price 1 s. 6 d. 1 s. and the loweſt 6 d.

For Sale by the Candle.

This Day, the 17th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon, only one Cask in a Lot; viz. 38 Hhds of excellent new French Saternas White Wine near, an entire Parcel, compleating the Cargo of the Prize taken by the Mary Galley, juſt landed; now in a Cellar in that Lead-yard on Porter's Key next the Cuſtom-houſe: And 12 Butts of excellent Bencarles Barcelona Wine, very deep, bright and ſtrong, neat, an entire Parcel; in a Cellar under the Houſe of Madam Sterry in Savage Garden, between the Arch in Crouched-Friars and Great Tower-hill. All the aforeſaid Wines are to be ſeen and taſted till the time of Sale. To be Sold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.